

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 12-15, 17, and 19-26 are pending. Claims 16 and 18 have been cancelled. Claim 12 has been amended to include limitations from cancelled claims 16 and 18. Claims 17 and 19 have been amended to correct dependency in view of the foregoing amendments. Claims 20-22 have been amended to avoid antecedent basis issues. Claims 25 and 26 have been amended for clarification of the plane parallel to the flat contact surface and in view of the Examiner's objection.

The instant specification has been amended in accordance with the concurrently submitted drawing revision.

The Examiner's objection to the drawings is believed overcome in view of the concurrently submitted drawing revision.

The Examiner's objection to claims 22, 25, and 26 is believed overcome in view of the foregoing amendments and withdrawal of the objection is in order.

The rejection of claims 12-26 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) as being unpatentable over Odley et al. (U.S. Patent 5,836,782) is hereby traversed. Amended claim 12 is patentable as Odley fails to disclose at least second and third planes defining a cutting edge being respectively between 30 degrees and 60 degrees to a first flat contact surface. Applicant hereby submits a marked up version of FIG. 1A of Odley (Exhibit A) depicting lines representing the second and third planes (highlighted in red) of the cutting edge of Odley extended and intersecting the flat contact surface. As depicted, Odley describes one of the two planes defining the cutting edge being parallel to the first contact surface and the other of the two planes defining the cutting edge being perpendicular to the first contact surface. Based on the foregoing, claim 12 is patentable over Odley and withdrawal of the rejection is in order.

Claims 13-15, 17, 19, and 23 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 12, include

further important limitations, and are patentable over Odley for at least the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 12 and withdrawal of the rejection is in order.

Further, with specific reference to original claim 14, Odley fails to disclose a shaped blade prescribing an arc about an axis parallel to the longitudinal axis of the shaped blade. The Examiner has failed to identify any such disclosure in the reference. The Examiner is requested to identify with specificity where in the reference the Examiner believes the claimed limitation to be disclosed. For at least this reason and for those advanced above with respect to claim 12, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 14 is in order.

Claim 23 is patentable over Odley for at least reasons similar to those advanced above with respect to claim 12 and withdrawal of the rejection is in order.

Claim 20 is patentable over Odley as Odley fails to disclose at least that a line drawn parallel to the flat contact surface and passing through a point defined by an end of the cutting edge is not parallel to either of the surfaces defining the cutting edge. As demonstrated by the attached Exhibit A, Odley does not include at least this limitation of claim 20. Withdrawal of the rejection is believed in order.

Claims 24 and 25 depend, either directly or indirectly, from claim 20, include further important limitations, and are patentable over Odley for at least the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 20 and withdrawal of the rejection is in order.

Claim 22 is patentable over Odley for at least reasons similar to those advanced above with respect to claim 20 and withdrawal of the rejection is in order.

Claim 26 depend from claim 22, includes further important limitations, and is patentable over Odley for at least the reasons advanced above with respect to claim 22 and withdrawal of the rejection is in order.

All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application should be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Early issuance of a Notice of Allowance is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy A. Noranbrock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Randy" being more prominent.

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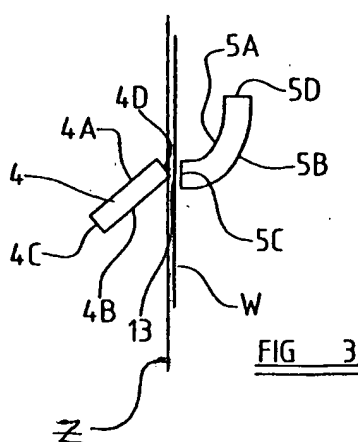


FIG 3

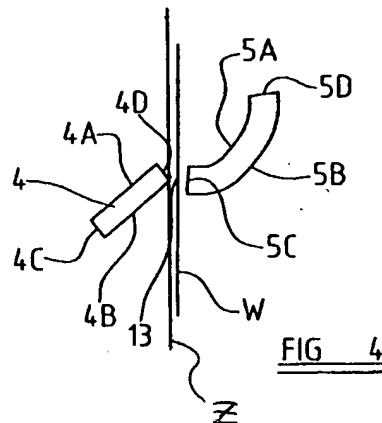


FIG 4

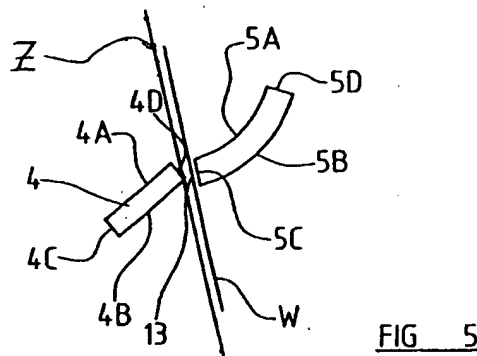


FIG 5

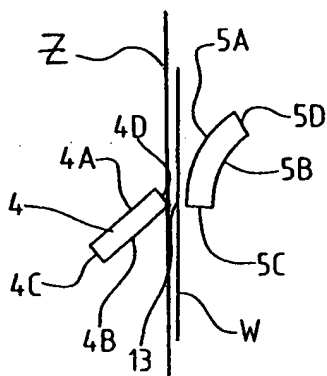


FIG 6

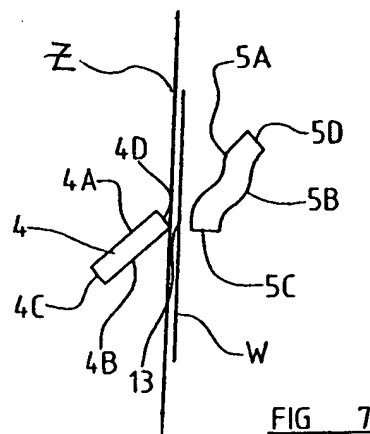


FIG 7